language construction from a perspective of cognitive psychology and psycholinguistics

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why do we construct languages?
hypothesis
are conlangers linguistically more creative?

people with high degree of language creativity are among others part of language constructors group

conlangs are products of minds with a superfluous language creativity: they tend to be innovative rather than conservative in language use
cognitive psychology

cognitive science
: how does the mind works
:: many different aspects
::: psychology, religion, language...

cognitive psychology
: perception, memory, attention, decision and language

psycholinguistics

: how does mind processes language
: why does language exist
:: human culture – a novel socio-biological system
language construction

language with a known origin(ator)
  : quasi-language
  : pseudo-language
### categorisation of conlangs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>linguistic category</th>
<th>symbol</th>
<th>attribute representation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>realism</td>
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<td>inconsistent</td>
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<td>complexity</td>
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<td>development</td>
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<td>synchronous</td>
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<th>teleological category</th>
<th>attribute representation</th>
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language creativity

phenomenon which among others stands behind language evolution

ability to modify the actual language paradigm

general
ability to understand sentences never heard before
ability to say sentences never said before

special
neology
proteome
idioms / phrases
party pooper
neophasia
conlangs!
function
  : primarily
    :: (interpreted as) unusual expression
      ::: created by error
      ::: created by intention

    :: in fact to show wit (seeming originality and uniqueness)
      ::: prestige increasing through hidden communication

  : secondarily
    :: language evolution
      ::: powered by social prestige of the source of change
neology

new meaning
: expression or meaning which is not settled, customary, widespread
: completely new word, new meaning or new form of old word

origin of neology

: semantic shift words (waldo, spam, google)
: words *de novo* (ansibl, to grok, nerd)
: calques (flea market, masterpiece, pineapple)
: hybrid words (uber-teacher, nogoodnik, supramolecular)
: anglicised foreign words (ketchup, castle, curry)
: foreign words with english morphology (iglooing, jungled, encarnalised)
: foreign words /almost/ unchanged (chav, aspirin, chromosome)
: portmanteau words (eurocrat, emoticon, cyborg)
: acronyms (radar, taser, laser)
: functional shift words (to sofa, to parent, to google, betweenity)
: sniglet (mustgo / rotten food, lerplexed / misspelling, profanitytype / @#!)
: nonce (anti-everything-wrong, all-this-be-happening-to-me)
: buzzwords
: shortening (clo / cloths, len / lens, pea / pease)
motivation for neology

: (socially) new reality - also l. game
: (socially) new way of seeing customary reality

spreading the neology

: social prestige of the source
  :: compost solution, submarine solution, lingerie solution
  :: so called buzzwords - popular culture (be fanatical about)

establishing the neology

: recency vs. universality; frequency of use
  :: when is the word accepted? problem with general word lifespan
  :: expressions disappear from language with the described
    ::: blunger, saggar, jomuk, putterup-duck (pottery)
  :: expressions describing the more permanent stay longer
    ::: lols, geeky, email
  :: insufficient source prestige
    ::: duffin (donut-muffin), earworm (hit), locavore (local food eater)
neophasia

new language
  : pseudo-language
  : quasi-language

: private languages (infant l., schizophrenic l., neophatic polyglottism)
: pidgins / creoles
: constructed languages (conlangs)

: planned languages
: codes
: relex
let’s do some science

what is the language creativity?
  : already done, we have to choose
  : several levels of language creativity (phonetic to pragmatic)
  : slip of a tongue vs. creativeness

who is a conlanger?
  : relatively easy, we may use FB or LCC
  : several levels of conlanging (naming up to diachronic)
  : actual un-self-aware conlangers

could we go quantitative from qualitative criteria?
research tools

: questionnaire

:: respondent is not a linguist

:: respondent’s first language

: statistical evaluation

:: the most complicate matter

: lot of luck 😊
proof that method works

positive control
: we have to be sure, that we see what is there

: recognition of designed language creativity

: ability to conlang on an immediate level

negative control
: we have to be sure, that we do not see what is not there

: recognition of designed linguistic errors (e.g. spelling, semantics)

: recognition of neologism / non-conlang from conlanging (e.g. relex)
data evaluation

linguistic assessment
: to interpret linguistic qualitative and quantitative parameters

prone to design misconceptions

statistic correlation
: to find if the independent and dependent variables do correlate

correlation does not necessarily mean a causality

tools
: correlation statistics
  :: to test if it is any relation there
  :::: scatter plot
  ::::: principal component analysis

: inferential statistics
  :: to test if the independent variable is really independent
conclusions

interesting even on a level of design 😊
: methodic development in psycholinguistics

conlanging as a subject to research
: science is fun and even fun may turn science

conlanging may serve deeper understanding of language
: cognitive linguistics is still in its infancy
: reverse linguistics may not be born yet

science of language construction
litiipmeiiem rabemet

Savage Chickens

Yawnomatopoeia: Words that sound like gibberish because you're too bored to listen to them.

thanks for your attention